

Executive Registry

77-493/2

NIO 1124-77

19 May 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA : Deputy to the DCI for National Intelligence

FROM : [REDACTED]
Executive Officer, National Intelligence Staff

SUBJECT : Response to Frank Barnett Letter

1. Action Required: Your signature.

2. The drafting of the response to Mr. Barnett involved two NIOs and got a low priority, with the result that we are tardy in getting this response to you for your signature.

3. The attached response, which was drafted by [REDACTED] defends our methodologies and analytical techniques, while at the same time it recognizes that they, too, can be further improved.

4. A critique of the W. T. Lee pamphlet is Tab.

Attachment
SR M 77-10066 (5 May 77)

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MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director

SUBJECT : Response to Frank Barnett Letter

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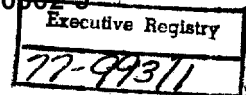
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1 - RI wo/att


CONFIDENTIAL



NIO #1124-77
11 May 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA : Deputy to the DCI for National Intelligence

FROM : 
National Intelligence Officer for Economics

SUBJECT : Response to Frank Barnett letter

1. Action Required: Your signature.

2. Somehow this correspondence got lost "on the way to the Forum". It hit my desk on 6 May. Attached is my proposed reply.

3. Barnett's letter seems deliberately provocative, as indicated by his rhetorical question in the first paragraph. I felt that, while we have misgivings of our own about the concepts and analytic techniques involved, the letter deserved a fairly forceful answer.

4. A critique of the W. T. Lee pamphlet is attached at Tab.



Attachment:

SR M 77-10066 (5 May 1977) CONFIDENTIAL

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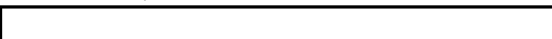
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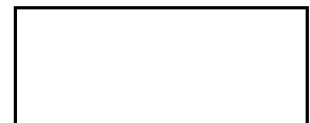
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ES,

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Per our records the orig letter fm Mr. Barnett
was sent to NIO on 9 Apr 77 with a suspense date of
16 Apr.

ER/Ed

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17	AO/DCI				
18	C/IPS				
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20	D/EEO				
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SUSPENSE		<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <i>16 April</i> Date </div>			

Remarks:

*For review + comment to
DCI*

Executive Secretary

9 April
Date

3637 (7-76)

N-20

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Executive Registry
27-993

25 March 1977

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WASHINGTON ASSOCIATE
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International Labor Program
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Directors

Admiral Stansfield Turner
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, DC.

Dear Stan:

It is now clear that Soviet military spending has been twice as large as it was thought to be by most U.S. government agencies. How is it possible that intelligence estimates were understated by a factor of 100 percent?

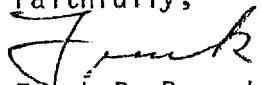
The answers are offered in the enclosed pamphlet by a brilliant analyst, W.T. Lee. (Mr. Lee's piece will appear later as a Chapter in our forthcoming book on the comparative defense budgets of the superpowers.)

As former Undersecretary of State Eugene Rostow points out in his Foreword:

"...the Soviet Union is embarked upon a program of indefinite political expansion, based on military forces which are growing more rapidly than our own... intended to achieve visible and complete superiority in every category... Yet the intelligence community has steadfastly resisted what was obvious to nearly everybody else."

Mr. Lee's analysis of why the intelligence estimates went wrong has a critical bearing on the current debate on U.S. defense needs and Soviet capabilities.

With best regards, I am

Faithfully,

Frank R. Barnett

Enc. (1)

AGENDA

UNDERSTANDING THE SOVIET MILITARY THREAT

How CIA Estimates
Went Astray

With a Foreword
by Eugene V. Rostow

William T. Lee

National Strategy Information Center, Inc.
111 East 58th Street, New York, N.Y. 10022

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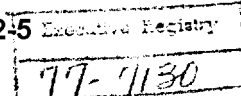
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3637 (7-76)

Executive Secretary
[Signature]
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25 March 1977

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Assistant Secretary and
Assistant Treasurer

Mr. Benjamin C. Evans, Jr.
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, DC.

Dear Ben:

It is now clear that Soviet military spending has been twice as large as it was thought to be by most U.S. government agencies. How is it possible that intelligence estimates were understated by a factor of 100 percent?

The answers are offered in the enclosed pamphlet by a brilliant analyst, W.T. Lee. (Mr. Lee's piece will appear later as a Chapter in our forthcoming book on the comparative defense budgets of the superpowers.)

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Mr. Lee's analysis of why the intelligence estimates went wrong has a critical bearing on the current debate on U.S. defense needs and Soviet capabilities.

With best regards, I am

Faithfully,

Frank R. Barnett

Enc. (1)

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UNDERSTANDING THE SOVIET MILITARY THREAT

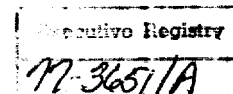
How CIA Estimates
Went Astray

With a Foreword
by Eugene V. Rostow

William T. Lee

National Strategy Information Center, Inc.
111 East 58th Street, New York, N.Y. 10022

11-20



7 MAR 1977

Dear Frank,

I very much appreciated your kind letter on the occasion of my appointment as Director of Central Intelligence.

I agree that the national defense is a pressing priority and I welcome the challenge that my new position will provide.

Again, your best wishes and congratulations were greatly appreciated.

Yours,

/s/ Stansfield Turner

STANSFIELD TURNER
Admiral, U.S. Navy

Mr. Frank R. Barnett
National Strategy Information Center, Inc.
111 East 58th Street
New York, New York 10022

DA/DCI [redacted]

Typed: 11 March 1977

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1-ER w/basics

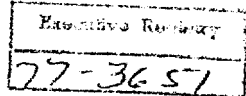
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February 25, 1977

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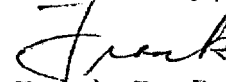
Admiral Stansfield Turner
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Stan:

Those of us who believe that National Defense
is our most pressing priority take substantial
encouragement from your recent and much deserved
advancement in responsibility for the country's
security.

With sincerest congratulations and all best
wishes, I am

Faithfully,


Frank R. Barnett

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PREFACE BY
Frank R. Barnett
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